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RIGHTS OF PERSONS BELONGING TO NATIONAL OR ETHNIC, RELIGIOUS AND LINGUISTIC MINORITIES

Written statement submitted by the Caucasians United for Reparations and Emancipation, a non-governmental organization on the Roster

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1295 (XLIV).

[11 February 1998]

Prayer for the protection of the human rights of the African national minority in the United States of America: The so-called African Americans

1. Recognizing that the African national minority in the United States of America has suffered destruction of its ethnic, linguistic, religious and national identity and has been forced to assimilate into the ruling white majority culture: the so-called African Americans made up approximately 12 per cent of the United States population. They record a 443-year history of slavery, apartheid and racial discrimination, including 222 years under the authority of the United States Government which conferred citizenship upon them without consultation or democratic choice. The United States Government officially participated in slavery and in forced cultural assimilation. United States state governments officially participated in slavery, apartheid and racial discrimination. The single attempt to repair the damage of these crimes has been an affirmative action programme which gave preference not only to African Americans, but to other minorities, women and disabled. Due to the opposition of white male Americans and the resulting action of the United States Supreme Court, affirmative action as a special measure to repair past human rights violations against African Americans has ceased after 30 years.

2. Knowing that in 1994 a respected African American leader, the Honorable Silis Muhammad, delivered a communication to the United Nations on behalf of African Americans under communications procedure 1503: this document offered evidence of human rights crimes, with particular reference to ethnocide and forced assimilation, and it prayed for United Nations assistance and called for reparations. Regretting that the Working Group on Communications determined that this document failed to show a consistent pattern of gross violations of human rights, and asserting that the enslavement and forced assimilation of African Americans is a part of world history, known to the United Nations, our organization requests that the aforementioned communication, dated 18 March, 1994 and entitled "Petition for U.N. Assistance Under Resolution 1503 on behalf of African Americans in the U.S.A.", be examined by the Commission on Human Rights, and its prayer taken into consideration. This communication can be consulted at the Secretariat.

3. Understanding that the most destructive violation of the human rights of African Americans remains ethnocide and forced assimilation into an alien culture: despite the attempts of American media to portray "happy American blacks" and "wealthy black athletes" the culture of the majority of African Americans is a post-slavery culture. Many African Americans have long sought a separate identity, and they have long sought to distinguish themselves from the majority population through unique musical and cultural development. Some African Americans have tried to identify with the African continent and have found that their long absence and forced removal have made them unable to re-connect. African Americans are, in essence, a homeless nation without identity, exploited as a servant class. Increasingly, they are being forced into criminal or suspect status.

4. Realizing that African Americans have been represented by a government of their own design for 67 years, with citizenry submitting to their own courts of law and protected by their own military: the Honorable Silis

Muhammad, C.E.O. of the Lost-Found Nation of Islam, is moving toward independence from the United States Government. The Lost-Found Nation of Islam seeks reparations and self-determination. The struggle of African Americans has been a long one, representing over 400 years of resistance and uprisings against repression, torture, duplicity, lynching and murder, political intimidation, harassment and disruption and forced assimilation. That this struggle is finally reaching its culminating stages is evidenced by the submission of the aforementioned petition to the United Nations under communications procedure 1503, and the movement of the Lost-Found Nation of Islam toward independence.

5. In full consideration of the above, we believe that the African American people suffer from gross, systematic and persistent violations of their human rights, particularly their right to self-determination and the right to remedy for past and ongoing gross human rights violations. Our organization is concerned with the protection of the human rights of the African National Minority in the United States of America. We encourage awareness of the potential for racial conflict and violent suppression of those who are seeking independence and reparations. We urge the Commission on Human Rights to assist African Americans in their efforts to recover from official United States policies of enslavement, apartheid and forced assimilation.